

Gillespie

Alma, Page County Va.

March 14. 1855

Prof. Asa Gray,  
Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favor of the 2nd. inst. has been duly received and I hasten to reply. In answer to your question as to the whereabouts of Alma I have to say that it is on the bank of the Shenandoah river in latitude  $38^{\circ} 35'$  about 100 miles from the city of Washington and 125 miles from Richmond the state Capitol.

The Blue Ridge of Mountains is the Eastern boundary of the County of Page and the Massanutten mountains bound it on the west. The adjoining counties are Madison and Rappahannock on the East, Rockingham on the South, Shenandoah on the west and Warren on the North. I would be truly delighted to see a work published giving the description of the plants of Va. &c. as your Manual of the Botany of the N. & Middle States does for the North. I shall immediately procure a copy of your Manual &c. and though I have never met with a copy of your "Genera of Plants of the U.S. Illustrated" I am aware of its existence and have only been deterred from purchasing it from the fear of its not yet being complete and of the expense, my means in a pecuniary point of view being limited. I should, however, be glad to know when it is

expected to be completed, the number of volumes  
it will embrace and the probable cost of the  
whole work. I am a practising physician  
and take a deep interest in several branches  
of Natural History, and have facilities for  
collecting specimens in most parts of the state.  
This I am enabled to do through the kindness of  
my former classmates at the University of Va.  
and of the members of our State Medical Society.

It will give me, I assure you, very great  
pleasure to procure for you specimens, fruits,  
or information concerning the plants of Va. or  
to be of service to you otherwise in any way  
that it may be in my power.

With great respect

I remain yr. very truly

James L. Hillebrand

P.S. In writing to me it is not necessary to prepay  
the postage - only have the care to add P.M.  
after my name and mark the corner of the  
letter with the word Free